

NCAA GROUND TRANSPORTATION SAFETY STANDARDS
2026-27

All charter bus operators and other providers of ground transportation services, and/or any transportation, must comply with the following:

1. Must work directly with charter bus operators or your travel management company. Avoid booking through risky charter bus online brokers.
2. Must hold the appropriate interstate operating authority (MC number); be a Department of Transportation (DOT) registered interstate for-hire motor coach company.
 - a. Intrastate bus operators do not qualify.
 - b. Subcontracted bus companies are not permitted unless that company meets the NCAA championship event safety standards, determined via their unique DOT and MC numbers.
3. Must have a valid “Satisfactory” rating by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Motor coach carriers that are “Not Rated” via an FMCSA compliance review will be considered on a case-by-case basis as long as all other safety criteria are met.

4. Must not have open safety incidents that are in litigation and/or any safety incidents that have been found negligent within the last three (3) years.
5. Must have an appropriate level of commercial auto liability insurance (as defined by the FMCSA) on file with the FMCSA.
6. If vehicle and driver out-of-service rates do not fall at or below the national averages, as reported by the FMCSA’s Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) Safety Measurement System (SMS), a review of the motor coach inspections will be conducted to determine whether violation severity warrants further action.
7. The carrier must have no SMS Behavioral Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS) performance or percentile FMCSA intervention thresholds triggered by severe violations from roadside inspections or acute/critical violations recorded during an on-site compliance review.
8. Contractor must monitor championship bus providers by DOT and MC numbers, leveraging FMCSA publicly available information (or through an acceptable carrier monitoring service, e.g. Carrier 411) to make sure current and upcoming trip carriers meet the above criteria.

- a. Contractor may not use a bus company for NCAA championships that does not meet all criteria listed above.
 - b. Contractor must immediately inform the NCAA of scheduled bus companies that are reported as having fallen below the NCAA championship ground transportation safety standards and procure an alternative bus company which meets said standards.
 - c. Contractor will provide a current list of all NCAA championship bus companies upon request.
9. Contractor may not add to, or eliminate from, these safety standards.
10. Documentation of bus companies must be accompanied by their respective, unique DOT number and MC number.
11. NCAA may audit contractor's protocols and practices at any time. Safety standards set forth herein are also subject to change at the sole discretion of the NCAA.